



What You Need to Know About Facebook, Websites and Other Social Media Outlets To Raise Awareness About Your Situation

Using the World Wide Web to raise awareness about your need for a kidney transplant and find a donor has become a very good option. There are 100's of Facebook pages and websites that are devoted to educating and promoting someone's need for a kidney transplant.

In general, transplant hospitals are more accommodating when someone in need of a kidney transplant refers or comes in with a potential donor who they met via the web or mediums like Craigslist. In the past, this wasn't the case which frustrated many who needed a kidney transplant. There are still concerns that hospitals have with these types of donors, but they are much easier to deal with, especially if you are prepared. Even someone that you met from a mutual acquaintance could be questioned by the hospital.

Here are a few procedures you could follow when you are put in touch with someone that isn't a close friend or family member.

- As soon as possible, have this person call the donor advocate at your transplant hospital. If this person delays wanting to talk with the hospital for a period of weeks or even longer, this should raise concerns on your behalf.
- You should have the discussion that it is illegal for them to receive any type of compensation, (the term used by UNOS is, "valuable consideration," for being a donor.
- The recipient is allowed to reimburse the donor for any travel expenses or lost wages for time taken off from work. If these expenses are a burden for the donor and if you are unable to reimburse her/him for these expenses there are organizations that could help and many recipients plan a fund raising event. You should have this conversation with you potential donor ASAP so you could avoid some future disappointments. For a list of organizations that could help with pay for some of these expenses, click [HERE](#).

There are websites that "match" recipients with interested donors. One is: www.matchingdonors.com This is a for profit company that charges those who are in need of a kidney transplant to post their "resumes," i.e. information about themselves. Those who are interested in being a donor can read the information about those in need and contact someone if they want to learn more about that individual. Relationships made via Matching Donors have resulted in many kidney transplants. You should be aware that there is also the potential for disappointment. There have been many reports, (not only with Matching Donors but with anyone that you meet online,) of developing a relationship over a period of weeks or months and then an email is sent and never you never receive a return, or you do receive an email that says "undeliverable." This could result in a very big disappointment for you, so you need to be aware that this could happen. My suggestion above of trying to have a potential donor contact your transplant hospital ASAP can lessen the chances of this type of disappointment occurring.